



# HOUSE DEMOCRATIC OFFICE

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## REPUBLICANS VOTE TO PUT MORE SPECIAL INTEREST MONEY INTO POLITICS

**TALLAHASSEE** --- Democratic members of the House Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council voted Wednesday to protect Florida's constitutional public campaign finance provisions while Republicans moved to close off citizen participation in the political process.

Recognizing the people's demand and support for public campaign finance, Democratic members opposed a resolution sponsored by Rep. Alan Hays, R-Umatilla. The measure would unravel one of Florida's proven good-government reforms---the ability for candidates to draw public campaign funds and require them to meet certain spending limits.

Public campaign finance, which voters put into the state constitution in 1998:

- Allows candidates to run for office who otherwise cannot afford to do so;
- Reduces campaign costs by requiring spending limits for those receiving public money;
- Is used by candidates of all political parties, including Republicans like Governor Charlie Crist; and it
- Tames special-interest influence in campaigns.

Representative Hays, the sponsor of the joint resolution, and some other Republicans on the House Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council, failed to mention in today's deliberations that **they voted in 2005 to triple the amount of taxpayer funding available for public campaign finance.**

Yet in a partisan press release today, Hays compared the public campaign finance dollars he voted to substantially increase in 2005 to "welfare for politicians." **Representative Hays has either flip-flopped or forgotten how he voted.**

Democrats are pleased to stand with good government groups like the League of Women Voters, Common Cause, Florida Public Interest Research Group, and the Sierra Club in opposing measures that would quiet the public's voice in politics.

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